

Serial No.: 09/890,836

Case No.: 20377YP

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1 - 41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a packaging signal cassette flanked by a recombinase recognition sequence,

wherein said packaging signal cassette comprises a modified adenovirus packaging signal having ~~[less than seven]~~ two to six A elements ~~[, each A element]~~ having a consensus sequence of ATTTG_NCG (SEQ ID NO:1), ~~[and]~~

wherein N₈ of each A element is replaced by the N₈ sequence of a different A element, and

wherein the resulting A element is different from both the wild-type packaging signal A element and from each other.

43. (canceled)

44. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim [43] 42, wherein said modified adenovirus packaging signal contains from three to five A elements.

45. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein said recombinase recognition sequence is *loxP*.

46. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein said recombinase recognition sequence is *frt*.

47. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein said wild-type packaging signal is human adenovirus serotype 5 packaging signal.

48. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein the modified packaging signal comprises at a maximum 23 bp of contiguous sequence homology relative to a wild-type packaging signal.